

What is an asthma attack?



- Asthma attacks (wheezing, tightness of chest, coughing) can be very mild or sometimes can be very severe.

Asthma attack triggers



- Asthma attacks can be caused by things (triggers) in the environment, such as air pollution, dust, mold, tobacco smoke, pollen, pet hair or dander.

EPA

Is there a cure for asthma?



- Unfortunately, there is no known "cure" for asthma, but there are ways to keep asthma under control, such as taking medications, staying indoors on poor air quality days, and avoiding tobacco smoke.
- Scientists continue to seek a "cure" for asthma

Photos: PDECOM

Who has asthma?



- Asthma affects people of all ages, races, backgrounds and geographic locations
- In 2009 in the United States
 - 17.5 million (7.7%) adults have asthma
 - 7.1 million (9.6%) children have asthma

Photo: Christina Carr

Some populations suffer more from asthma



- People living near factories and other types of industrial facilities have higher rates of asthma
- People living near highways or areas with lots of traffic have higher rates of asthma

What can we do to help?



- Reduce pollution in the air:
 - Pass laws and regulations to protect air quality
 - Make behavior changes to help keep the air cleaner (bike to work, conserve energy, don't smoke)
 - Develop cleaner cars and factories

Photo: Rain Forest Action Network

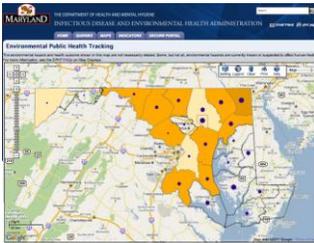
What Are Researchers Doing ?



- Studying asthma to learn more about causes and ways to prevent it.
- Monitoring air quality and environmental conditions affecting people with asthma.

Photo: USFS

Tracking Pollution



- Maryland monitors ozone and other pollutants and asthma rates by county.
- Surveillance of public health data involves continuous collection, analysis and interpretation of data and information to inform policies, track progress and serve as a warning system in case of emergencies.

Discussion



- What kind of information or research do you think would be helpful for reducing asthma rates?
- What are things that your school, community, or local businesses can do to help prevent asthma and reduce symptoms?

Photo: Shari Yeh